**What is claimed is:**

1. A clothing strap tensioning device, comprising:

an elastic member having a geometry generally defined by middle, left end, and right end portions, and bounded by upper, lower, left and right edges; and

means integrated into the left end and right end portions for enabling releasable attachment of the end portions to each other to form the elastic member into a loop,

wherein, upon securing the tensioning device about the spaced-apart clothing straps, the clothing straps are drawn inwardly toward each other medially in a manner preventing twisting of the straps.

2. A tensioning device as recited in claim 1, wherein the releasable attachment means integrated into the left end and right end portions are configured to enable adjustment to the tension of said device.

3. A tensioning device as recited in claim 2, wherein said releasable attachment means further comprises a plurality of spaced-apart snap-fit members integrated into one of said left and right end portions.

4. A tensioning device as recited in claim 2, wherein said releasable attachment means further comprises one-half of a hook-and-loop type fastening system integrated into the left end portion of the elastic member and the other half of the hook-and-loop type fastening system integrated into the right end portion.

5. A tensioning device as recited in claim 1, wherein the left and right end portions of said elastic member project upwardly away from said middle portion.

6. A tensioning device as recited in claim 5, wherein the elastic member has a varying transverse width, the transverse width defined as the transverse distance between the upper and lower edges.

7. A tensioning device as recited in claim 6, wherein said transverse width is substantially uniform along the middle region of said elastic member.

8. A tensioning device as recited in claim 7, wherein said transverse width increases along said left and right portions in a direction toward said middle region.

9. A tensioning device as recited in claim 1, wherein the elastic member is characterized by a geometry in which the upper edge slopes upwardly from the middle portion of the elastic member toward the left and right end portions thereof.

10. A tensioning device as recited in claim 9, wherein the elastic member is characterized by a geometry in which the lower edge slopes upwardly from the middle portion of the elastic member toward the left and right end portions thereof.

11. A tensioning mechanism for drawing a pair of spaced-apart vertically disposed clothing straps toward each other, comprising:

a first elastic member directly fastened to a first one of said clothing straps;

a second elastic member directly fastened to a second one of said clothing straps; and

means integrated into said first and second elastic members for enabling releasable attachment of said elastic members to each other,

wherein, upon fastening said first and second elastic members to each other the vertically disposed clothing straps are drawn toward each other medially.

12. A tensioning device as recited in claim 11, wherein:

said first elastic member has a portion fastened to the first one of said clothing straps and an unfastened flap portion extending therefrom; and

said second elastic member has a portion fastened to the second one of said clothing straps and an unfastened flap portion extending therefrom.

13. A tensioning device as recited in claim 12, wherein said releasable attachment means further comprises:

at least one snap member integrated into the unfastened flap portion of the first one of said clothing straps; and

at least one mating snap member integrated into the unfastened free portion of the second one of said clothing straps.

14. A tensioning device as recited in claim 12, wherein said releasable attachment means further comprises:

one half of a hook-and-loop type fastening system integrated into the unfastened flap portion of the first one of said clothing straps; and

the other half of said hook-and-loop fastening system integrated into the unfastened flap portion of the second one of said clothing straps.

15. A unitary tensioning member for drawing a pair of spaced-apart vertically disposed clothing straps toward each other, comprising:

a planar rear wall portion;

left and right planar front wall portions disposed in a common plane and parallel to said rear wall portion; and

a pair of side wall portions adjoining the respective left and right front wall portions to opposite ends of the rear wall portion;

said left and right front wall portions terminating at respective edges defining a strap-receiving opening therebetween; and,

said rear, front and side wall portions together defining a strap retaining slot sized and shaped for simultaneously retaining said pair of clothing straps in a tensioned condition while preventing twisting of said straps.